



REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35

Assemblymember

**Pedro Nava**



[www.assembly.ca.gov/nava](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/nava)

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## **Nava Introduces Groundbreaking Consumer Protection Greenhouse Gas Emission Law, AB 1851**

**Sacramento** – Assemblymember Pedro Nava and Attorney General Jerry Brown agree the public needs protection and certainty when they buy voluntary greenhouse gas reduction offsets. California will be the first state in the nation to have a state certified voluntary greenhouse gas emission offset program under Nava's measure.

"My legislation will protect the public and ensure that greenhouse gas emission reductions are achieved," said Nava. "Right now, people are trying to do the right thing. They go to a dizzying array of websites to buy carbon credits. But there are no consistent standards to protect consumers. We have to know that our money is being invested in real projects that really reduce greenhouse gas emissions."



Nava's bill reduces the risk for consumers fighting climate change.

According to Attorney General Jerry Brown, "The market for carbon offsets is unregulated and rapidly expanding. California should set clear guidelines for offsets so that consumers can be confident these products are legitimate."

There are many organizations that create and market offsets. They apply different standards with inconsistent results. This leaves the consumer uncertain if what they bought actually benefits the environment.

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## **Nava and California District Attorneys Join Forces to Fight Polluters and Protect Emergency Responders**

**Sacramento** - Under Assemblymember Nava's AB 1946, District Attorneys will have more power to pursue environmental polluters and negligent hazardous materials companies.

### **WATER QUALITY**

Reforming state law will allow State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Boards) and local district attorneys to bring water code violators to court. As the law now stands, only the State Attorney General's office can enforce water pollution cases referred by Boards. Nava's bill will give the Boards more power to protect Californians from pollution.



"I am proud to be working with the California District Attorney's Association to better protect Californians from pollution. The more tools to enforce California's environmental laws, the better," said Nava.

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The national retail market for voluntary offsets exceeds \$100 million and claims an estimated reduction of over 25 million metric tons of carbon equivalent gas annually. A significant number of emissions offsets are purchased in California. In the next three years, the worldwide supply of emissions offsets is expected to increase to 400 million metric tons. It is imperative that California create a certification system at an early stage in the greenhouse gas emission reduction process so that problems can be avoided as the retail market for carbon off-sets grows.

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## **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL**

First responders such as police and firefighters will also benefit from Nava's bill. Storage of hazardous materials requires a hazardous materials inventory and response plan. The plan is necessary to protect employees, the public and first responders, such as law enforcement and firefighters.

Nava said, "Updated hazardous materials plans save lives. Firefighters, police officers and the public deserve that protection. Companies who fail in their obligation to our community shouldn't be able to hide from their responsibility because of a flaw in the current law."

Companies responsible for a currently updated and complete inventory and response plan are subject to civil penalties. Currently the statute of limitations for this offense is only 1 year. Nava's bill will extend the statute of limitations to make it like other laws related to hazardous substances and hazardous waste which have a statute of limitation of 5 years.

### **Recent Santa Barbara Oil Spills Lead to More Authority for Fish and Game under Nava Bill**



Inland oil spills wreak havoc on the environment including this spill at a facility in Santa Barbara County. *Photo courtesy of Santa Barbara County Fire Department*

**Sacramento** – Chair of the Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, Pedro Nava and Assemblymember Lois Wolk introduced legislation to strengthen the Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) power over inland oil spills and ability to pursue polluters in court. Currently OSPR has broad authority and substantial funding to pursue spills in marine environments. This bill would extend similar authority for inland waters.

"Recent Santa Barbara inland spills made it clear existing law needs to be stronger to deal with repeat violators," said Nava. "During a January Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security briefing in Santa Barbara with Fish and Game, Department of Conservation, Santa Barbara County Fire and US EPA, I listened to our law enforcement personnel

describe the help they needed. This bill is a step in that direction."

There are approximately 2,500 inland spills every year compared to the 850 spills in California's marine waters. Despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of spills occur inland, less funding and personnel are allocated to inland spills.

The result is that OSPR is only able to physically respond to about one third of them. In addition, inland spills currently have lower penalties for equivalent spill volumes in the ocean. Through this bill, OSPR will be better able to protect California's environment from spills and to make those responsible pay for the damage they cause.

## **Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown's Blue Ribbon Commission on Jail Overcrowding Releases its Final Report**

*Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown convened a Blue Ribbon Commission in response to jail overcrowding in Santa Barbara County. Below are remarks by Commission Chairman, Rick Roney.*



Santa Barbara County Sheriff  
Bill Brown

On February 12, the Sheriff's Blue Ribbon Commission on Jail Overcrowding presented its Final Report and Recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors and the public. This Report has the unanimous support of the Commission members. We believe it contains an innovative and achievable plan to end jail overcrowding in our County.

The County has experienced jail overcrowding for over 20 years. In 2007, the County's jail facilities were operating at over 120% of rated capacity. Ideally, these facilities would operate at 85% of rated capacity to allow for surges in arrests and the changing mix of inmates (e.g. gender, classification, gang affiliation).

Over time, the County has gradually been letting more and more inmates out of jail before their sentence is completed. In 2007, that number reached almost 1800 inmates. The number of crimes that cause a person to be put in jail has been reduced, not by legislative action, but simply because we don't have room in the jail. All of this results in reduced accountability for offenders and, ultimately, decreased public safety for the rest of us.

The Commission recommended building a new 300-bed jail in the north county. But while building a new jail is necessary, it's not sufficient. The Commission also recommended investing approximately \$6 million per year on prevention programs and alternative-to-jail programs. These programs would help prevent people from committing crimes in the first place, and help those already in jail to change their lives so they don't commit new crimes when they're released. A few examples of the kind of the programs the Commission is recommending are:

- Substance abuse recovery and intervention: 85% of jail inmates are substance abusers who are charged with, or have been convicted of, serious crimes. Without addressing this core issue, the likelihood that these inmates will commit more crimes upon release is very high.
- Diversion programs for mentally ill: Between 25 and 30% of inmates are mentally ill and taking prescribed psychotropic drugs. Other communities have implemented successful diversion programs that could keep many of these inmates out of jail.
- Day Reporting Centers: Individuals under supervision would sleep at home (with satellite-based GPS electronic monitoring) and report to a supervised Day Reporting Center each day to receive training in things like life skills, vocational education, anger management and substance abuse counseling.

We strongly believe that, with the opportunity to have State funding for the proposed jail, we have a unique, once-in-a-generation, opportunity to reverse the seemingly inevitable path that jail overcrowding has put the County on over the last 20 years.

By enacting this plan, Santa Barbara County will take a major step in increasing public safety in our County. Please take the time to read our Blue Ribbon Commission Report and voice your support for this plan to end jail overcrowding and increase public safety.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Jail Overcrowding's Final Report and Recommendations is available online at: [www.sbsheriff.org/BRCReport](http://www.sbsheriff.org/BRCReport).

Rick Roney  
Chairman, Sheriff's Blue Ribbon Commission on Jail Overcrowding



## Assemblymember Nava's Nominee Appointed to the Santa Barbara Fair and Exposition Board of Directors

**Santa Barbara** - Suzanne Perkins, of Summerland, has been appointed to the Santa Barbara Fair and Exposition Board of Directors (19<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association). Since 1992, she has worked in real estate and is currently an agent for Sotheby's International. From 1988 to 1991, she worked for the Lifestyle Water Company in sales and reception, and from 1979 to 1988, was self-employed in horse training and sales. From 1966 to 1979, Perkins was flight service director for Pan American World Airways. She is a member of the Santa Barbara County Parks Commission, the Santa Barbara County General Plan Advisory Committee for the Summerland Area and the California Association of Realtors.

"I was proud to support Ms. Perkins for consideration and am pleased she was selected. She understands how important it is to cherish the history of Earl Warren Showgrounds and to promote it as viable equestrian venue for the ranching and equestrian communities of California," said Assemblymember Nava. "Her business expertise will serve the Board well as the facility continues to be revitalized and promoted to achieve financial security and growth."



Suzanne Perkins and Gold Galore, a Champion Palomino and half Arabian mare

## Assemblymember Pedro Nava Hosts Cash for College Workshop

**Oxnard** – Assemblymember Pedro Nava, along with co-sponsors Oxnard Union High School District, Oxnard College, Ventura College, California State University Channel Islands, the California Student Aid Commission, Oxnard City Corps and the Ventura County Star, hosted a free cash for college workshop on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at Pacifica High School in Oxnard.



Assemblymember Nava discusses the benefits of Cal Grants to a Pacifica High School student and her mother, with Linda Faasua of Oxnard College (right).

"With the March 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline quickly approaching for eligible students to file FAFSA and Cal Grant applications, I was pleased to partner with local colleges and universities to bring this valuable service to the community," said Nava. "Applying for financial aid can be a daunting process. The workshop offered one-on-one assistance that helped make the process less stressful for everyone. A special thanks for all the volunteers who gave up their Saturday to work with the students and families."

Over 100 students and parents attended the workshop that started off with a general overview of financial aid, motivational speakers, and individual help on completing the FAFSA and Cal Grant applications. The workshop also had a computer lab available for students to file their FAFSA application electronically.

Students under the age of 24 may be eligible for a Cal Grant worth up to \$9,700 a year by submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a GPA Verification Form by the March 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. For more information go to: [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org).

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